

# CITY OF JERSEY CITY

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## ***Mayor Healy to Honor Past Presidents with Wreath Laying at Historic Apple Tree House Ceremony Also Highlights Restoration Work Done By City***

JERSEY CITY – Mayor Jerramiah T. Healy, members of the **Municipal Council** and other city officials will join with members of **George Washington Commemorative Society of Jersey City** to lay a wreath in honor of President George Washington at **11 a.m. on Monday, February 16, 2009** at the **Historic Apple Tree House, at 298 Academy Street.**

“The leaders of this country have had some extraordinary obstacles to overcome and they have risen to the challenge time and again,” said **Mayor Healy**. “What unites them all are the hopes and dreams of the people they serve. So, it is with great honor that I celebrate the right and the opportunity to pursue those dreams with the nation on this President’s Day.”

This wreath laying ceremony commemorates the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary honoring George Washington, our country’s first President and commander of the Continental Army during the Revolutionary War, as well as subsequent presidents by the George Washington Commemorative Society of Jersey City, New Jersey.

According to local folklore, General George Washington and the Marquis De Lafayette conferred with the staff of the Continental Army under an apple tree in front of the house to discussed war strategy.

The **Apple Tree House**, which was then owned by Hartman Van Wagenen, is now owned by the City of Jersey City and is listed on the **National Register of Historic Places.**

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The building has just recently undergone a **\$1 million exterior restoration**, which was funded primarily through grants including those from the Urban Enterprise Zone Program and the New Jersey Historic Trust.

In the coming weeks, the city will go out to bid on the **\$1.7 million interior restoration**, which will be funded through a combination of grants from the UEZ, the New Jersey Historic Trust and the Hudson County Open Space Trust Fund. Work on the interior is expected to begin in May and be completed around the 2010 July 4<sup>th</sup> Independence Day holiday.

“Our President’s Day ceremonies are both a patriotic and civic event,” added **Mayor Healy**. “I urge our citizens to join me and the George Washington Commemorative Society of Jersey City, New Jersey in their 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Wreath Laying Ceremony in honor of this federal holiday to take pride in our nation’s history and our own work on the Historic Apple Tree House.”

U.S. Presidents Day, officially known as Washington's Birthday, is a federal holiday in the United States and is celebrated on the third Monday of February. Since 1789, 44 men have served as President of the United States, including the first, George Washington.

**All media inquiries should be directed to Jennifer Morrill, Press Secretary to Mayor Jerramiah T. Healy at 201-547-4836 or 201-376-0699. ////**